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Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE

APRIL 12, 1975

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Appendix 'A' Acting President's Introductory Remarks



ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0040

MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE

LOCATION

Queen's Park, Toronto

DATE AND TIME

April 12, 1975  
1:45 p.m.

5-0041

ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

A. L. McCallion

M. A. Bush

J. F. Mustard

A. D'Iorio

M. F. Orange

P. D. Fleck

R. P. Riggin

J. D. Fisher

Ronald S. Ritchie

R. Gerstein

H. H. Walker

T. R. Léger

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton  
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

RYERSON DELEGATION

Dr. G. Korey  
Acting President

Mr. B. J. Clark  
Acting Dean of Business

Mr. W. G. Pitman  
President Designate

Mr. T. Wilkinson  
Dean of Community Services

Mr. J. L. Packham  
Vice-President Academic

Mr. C. R. Worsley  
Dean of Technology

Mr. N. Mackenzie  
Dean of Arts

Mr. A. Sauro  
Dean of Applied Arts

Mr. T. G. Sosa  
Director of Student Services and  
Acting Director, Academic Support

Mr. B. W. Ralston  
Director of Finance and Management  
Information Systems



Mr. J. Palter  
Assistant Director, York-Ryerson  
Computing Centre

Mr. W. W. Small  
Vice-President  
York University



5-0042

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Acting President opened the hearing with brief introductory remarks, which are attached to these Minutes as Appendix 'A'. In addition to items dealt with in depth in Ryerson's brief, subsequent discussion focused on the following:

5-0043

#### FORMULA REVISION

With regard to the conversion of nursing line budgets it was pointed out that total costs would include current diploma programme expenditures plus additional costs related to the introduction of a degree programme. However, MCU approval for a degree programme had not yet been obtained. In addition, Ryerson expressed its intention to introduce a request for higher nursing weights to reflect the disparate nursing campuses and resultant extra costs of staff complements and library materials. While the Ministry had directed that the nursing line budget be discontinued in 1975-76, Ryerson preferred to defer the changeover until one year after introduction of the degree programme. The delegation hoped that nursing costs might be included with the costs of other Ryerson programmes to arrive at a new global weight for all Ryerson students.

Ryerson's suggested split year proposal for formula revision, described in the brief, was intended to dampen the steering effect of enrolment and diminish growth-drive. The delegation was agreeable to the concept of pricing the educational product and basing funding on that factor.

5-0044

#### TUITION FEES

The level of student tuition fees was seen as a province-wide socio-economic problem with implications for accessibility which could not be completely managed within individual institutions. Currently Ryerson felt no incentive to raise fees because of formula counter balances and the economic implications to accessibility of students.



5-0045

#### ADMISSIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

The delegation reported an increase in the number of applicant interviews, especially in creative fields where these were used to assess individual potential.

5-0046

#### SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

##### (i) York - Ryerson Computing Centre

Council learned that the main computer of the York-Ryerson Computing Centre was housed on the York campus and served all needs of both institutions. Application had been made to MCU for capital to enlarge service capabilities; such enlargement was expected to attract additional users from community colleges and other universities. Stimuli which prompted the co-operative effort included financial constraints; response to public concern; ability to acquire a greater variety of equipment; and, improved technology facilitating co-operative endeavours. As of May 1, 1975, the delegation reported that costs of operations would be charged back to users. The machinery currently operated at 85% capacity. Ryerson, through involvement in the Centre, had experienced a 5.7% reduction in computing costs. In addition to the 27 computer centre staff, locally each institution employed programmers, technicians etc. The enlarged capital facility would allow purchase, as opposed to leasing, of a larger, faster computer.

5-0047

#### MACRO-INDICATORS

The delegation reiterated points raised in the brief concerning macro-indicators. It was felt that costing educational output could be more easily achieved internally than on a system-wide basis.

5-0048

#### STATUS OF WOMEN

In order to encourage women to move into nontraditional disciplines the delegation felt that it might be appropriate to engage in discriminatory practices from time to time.



5-0049

## FINANCING AND OPERATIONS

Over the last three years, in order to bridge the gap between inflation and revenue, Ryerson had diverted resources gained through weight changes to meet inflation rather than to satisfy the purpose for which they were intended. It was stressed that if the trend in financing continued without further weight increases the method of delivery of education at Ryerson would require significant changes. At present average class sizes were 25 to 26 students, faculty were involved in an average of 16.3 contact hours per week and less than 3% of faculty time was devoted to research.

Council suggested that Ryerson convey to Government the past necessity to use weight increase funding to offset inflation and the fear that Ryerson's recent history may be a clearly identifiable precursor of what the future holds for the entire post-secondary sector.

The apparent high number of paid leaves of absence was considered capital renewal and was felt especially important at Ryerson. The proportion of faculty on leave at any one time was reported to not differ significantly from that at most universities. The net cost of the leave of absence programme in 1975-76 would amount to \$135,000.

In response to a query Council learned that the shift of the Open College to CJRT had saved Ryerson approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000.

In the coming year, a slight increase in the student:faculty ratio was predicted due to an enrolment increase of 2% which would not be balanced by any increase in faculty complements. The 1975-76 Ryerson budget was to be finalized by the Board on April 30th and was expected to be substantially the same as that indicated in



Appendix 1 of the brief. The delegation offered to forward a detailed approved budget with historical comparative data as soon as it became available. It was noted, however, that salary negotiations would not have been completed at that time.

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

J. S. Dupré  
Chairman



O.C.U.A. MEETING - APRIL 12, 1975

OPENING REMARKS

G. KOREY - ACTING PRESIDENT

IN OUR CURRENT WRITTEN SUBMISSION, WE CONCENTRATED ON BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE TOPICS SUGGESTED BY DR. DUPRÉ. OUR NOVEMBER BRIEF STILL PROVIDES AN UP-TO-DATE SUMMARY OF RYERSON'S ROLE IN ONTARIO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, AS WE SEE IT.

IT IS LIKELY THAT OUR AFTERNOONS TIME WILL BE MOST USEFUL IF IT IS DEVOTED MOSTLY TO DISCUSSION. THEREFORE, THESE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS WILL BE SHORT.

IN COMMON WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY SECTORS, RYERSON FINDS ITSELF PREOCCUPIED THESE DAYS WITH CONCERNs ABOUT MONEY - AND RISKS PUTTING INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING. THIS MAY NOT HAVE AFFECTED YET OUR DAILY CLASSROOM LEARNING BUT IT PERVERADES OUR FUTURE PLANNING.

THIS COUNCIL DOES NOT NEED REMINDING OF THE GAP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED REVENUE RATES AND INFLATION-CONTROLLED INFLATION RATES. FOR RYERSON, THIS GAP HAS BEEN AT LEAST SIX TO SEVEN PER CENT FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE HAVE STAYED CLEAR OF BANKRUPTCY SO FAR - WITH TWO KINDS OF EFFORT:



1. INCREASED EFFICIENCY; WHILE MAYBE IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT SOME OF OUR TRIMMING TO DATE HAS BEEN FAT, ANY FUTURE TRIMMING WILL CERTAINLY HAVE TO BE MOSTLY MUSCLE,
2. HOLDING AN ACADEMIC STANDSTILL; PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPING AN EXCELLENT ONTARIO POLYTECHNIC VIRTUALLY STOPPED THREE YEARS AGO. AS NOTED IN OUR BRIEF OUR INCREASED WEIGHTING FACTOR HAS PROVIDED FOR INFLATION INSTEAD OF THE CAPACITY FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IF THE GAP BETWEEN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IS TO CONTINUE INTO 1976/77 AND BEYOND, A DIFFERENT KIND OF EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED. IT WOULD BE AN EFFORT TO CREATE A DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THAT PURPOSE MIGHT BE EXCEPT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A RELATIVELY DECLINING INCOME, COLLECTIVELY-BARGAINED FACULTY SALARIES, COLLECTIVELY-BARGAINED FACULTY WORKLOAD, AND THE NON-REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE OR WORN OUT INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT.

SALARY AND BENEFIT LEVELS AT RYERSON ARE SET BY COLLECTIVE FACULTY AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN BASED LARGELY ON COST OF LIVING INCREASES FOR TWO YEARS, GRANTED BY THE ARBITRATORS. FACULTY COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS ALSO DETERMINE ACTIVITY LEVELS THROUGH WORKLOAD CLAUSES.



I AM CERTAIN THAT MEMBERS OF O.C.U.A. REALIZE THAT RYERSON CANNOT CHANGE ITS PURPOSE IN ONE OF THE WAYS THAT MAY BE FORCED UPON SOME ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES. THE POTENTIALLY ECONOMIC BUT ACADEMICALLY DANGEROUS REDUCTION OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND SCHOLARLY RESEARCH IS NOT RELEVANT IN AN INSTITUTION ENGAGED ONLY IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES.

IF PUBLIC POLICY REQUIRES A BASIC CHANGE FROM RYERSON'S PRESENT GOALS (AS RECORDED IN OUR NOVEMBER SUBMISSION) THERE PROBABLY WILL BE A QUITE DIFFERENT RYERSON IN FUTURE YEARS.

BUT IF THE FUTURE RYERSON IS TO BE EFFECTIVE, THERE MUST BE CLEAR AND CAREFUL PLANNING. SUCH PLANNING HAS TWO PREREQUISITES:

1. AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS LEAD TIME; MAJOR ACADEMIC CHANGE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN MUCH LESS TIME THAN THE STUDENT CYCLES FROM FRESHMAN TO GRADUATE.
2. PUBLIC POLICY WITH CORRESPONDING FUNDING THAT PROVIDES A REASONABLY CLEAR FRAMEWORK FOR ACADEMIC PLANNING; FOR RYERSON AT LEAST, THE FUTURE OF CAPITAL FUNDING FOR FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT IS AS CRITICAL AS OPERATING FUNDS.

AS I HAVE TOLD THE COUNCIL DURING OUR NOVEMBER MEETING, OUR MOST PRESSING NEEDS IN THE AREA OF CAPITAL FUNDING ARE:

- A) A LECTURE HALL ON OUR CAMPUS FOR SOME 480 NURSING STUDENTS AND APPROXIMATELY 450 ARCHITECTURAL SCIENCE STUDENTS WHOM



WE HAVE TO REPATRIATE TO RYERSON FROM RENTED FACILITIES:

AND

B) REPLACEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL EQUIPMENT IN MANY LABORATORIES AND STUDIOS, ESPECIALLY RADIO AND TELEVISION STUDIOS WHICH MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL VISITED IN NOVEMBER. PHYSICAL DETERIORATION THROUGH INTENSIVE USE AND OBSOLESCENCE AND THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ALREADY HAVE REDUCED THE QUALITY OF ALL EQUIPMENT-BASED COURSES AND WILL AFFECT THEM FURTHER.

OUR NOVEMBER BRIEF AND OUR PRESENT BRIEF HAVE OUTLINED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE AND GOALS TOGETHER WITH THE CORRESPONDING NEEDS FOR PUBLIC FUNDING. WE HOPE O.C.U.A. CAN SUPPORT OUR PURPOSE WHICH IS: TO BE AN INNOVATIVE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION PROVIDING CAREER ORIENTED EDUCATION FOR SUPERIOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

